

WVWC History: Buildings: 1915-1962

#### Preface

Dreamers and Giants: West Virginia Wesleyan College History, was a course taught from 2016-2020. The major goal of the course was to help students understand the rich history of the college, the place they came to call their Home Among the Hills.

These are slides and class lecture notes from those classes. What you don't see is the lively class discussion, the tours around campus on our Field Trip Friday sessions, and the pride on their faces as the students realized that they were part of something bigger than what they had realized: a school which had been lovingly created by those that we called the Dreamers and Giants of the college.

Paula L. McGrew January 2023 1942
Edna Jenkins Home
Economics Cottage

A house on Barbour Street was gifted to the collage for the purpose of supporting the Home Economics Department. It was named for Edna Jankins (Seminary, 1902). Trustee, 1943-56. The 1951 Murmurmontis was dedicated to her in appreciation of her philanthropy.



1953
Annie Merner Pfeiffe

The library is named for a wealthy Methodatis, highlightoright who waver set fort on campus. She died in 1946, before the library was completed. Her gill came with the requirement that two other buildings of similar value would be build not the same time, thus he is also connected with the LL Loar Memorial Muris Building and Fleming Holl. The Usrary inderwest major construction in the early 1970s and an even more major updating in 2019, due to a micro-million Tall to Rederal Great.



L.L. Loar Memorial Music Building Along with the gift from Annie Merner Pfeiffer, funds for this building were provided by the family of Ethel Loar – a student, who like Agnes Howard had withdrawn from school due to rheumatoid arthritis.



1953 Fleming Hall



1958 McCuskey Hall This residence hall is named for Ray McCuskey who has played many roles on campus: Seminary Graduate (1905), College Graduate (1908), Trustee (1921-41), and President (1931-41).



1959 Jenkins Hall This residence hall was named for Edna Jenkins (Seminary, 1902), Trustee, 1943-55. The 1951 Murmurmantis was dedicated to her in appreciation of her philanthropy (including the Home Economics Cattage, a new Moeller organ, a new Steinway Cancert Grand piano, and numerous scholarships.





This private residence across from Agnes Howard Hall was purchased by the college and used at the home of the Nursing Department from 1961-1972. It was then used as the Art Department and the home of the Methodist Archives until the building was condemned. (It makes a combaback in 1991!)

This house was built at about the same time as the President's Residence in 1892.



This residence hall completes what we know as The Quad. It is named for Carl Doney, President of the College, 1907-15, who advanced both academics and athletics during his term in office.



Buildings

We pass by them every day.

We enter them without a thought that they might not always have been there.

But each of them has a story.

To see the complete Chronology of the Buildings on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan College click on the link in the description or look on Internet Archive:

https://archive.org/details/chronology-wvwc-buildings-1890-2014

#### Home Economics Cottage

Named for Edna Jenkins, a graduate of the West Virginia Conference Seminary in 1902. Miss Jenkins served as a Trustee from 1943 to 1956.

(Yes, the very same Edna Jenkins we talked about when we looked at Jenkins Hall).

Girls would live in the cottage for six weeks at a time, and would be responsible for things such as a budget, menus, schedules for cooking and other responsibilities, and all aspects of running the household.

They even threw dinner parties for faculty, staff, and fellow students.



## New Library -1953



#### Finally! The new library that had been sought for decades became a reality.

At this point, I am going to give you a very scaled back version of a course I taught for several years: Libraries in the World. The very basics.

Libraries are: Collections - Place - and Service.

As long as any two of these are emphasized, there will be a great need for the library.

There is much more – but, as I said, these are the very basics.

The library at WVWC had been needing updated for decades, but there were no funds for making that happen.

The collections were limited, but adequate.

The place was extremely cramped.

The service, however, was very good. Librarians were helpful to both faculty and students.

For many years, there were calls for a library building. The trustees talked about it, the faculty talked about it, the students were clamoring for it. However, two World Wars and the Great Depression made fundraising difficult.

## Original Library in the Seminary Building



In the earliest days, the library was located upstairs in the Seminary Building.

It was little more than a closet with some donated books. There was no librarian – faculty members took turns providing the limited access.

The collections were limited. The place was.....well, a closet. The Various faculty members took turns opening the doors, and hours were very limited and service was very basic.

It is shown in the picture on the left.

Original Library in Seminary Building

### Library in Administration Building

After the fire, the books were stored in the Music Hall building until the library was located in the Administration Building. First it was one room, and later expanded to two rooms on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

- The collections were growing.
- The place was crowded, but did provide for some study areas.
- Service was much improved when Cecelia Alexander
  was hired by President Doney to be the first librarian in
  1910. She was able to get the collections organized,
  and went about intentionally building the collections
  to match the needs of our students and faculty rather
  than relying on random gifts of outdated materials.



Second floor of Administration Building

Finally, in 1953, spurred on by the gift of a wealthy Methodist philanthropist named Annie Merner Pfeiffer, fundraising efforts were rewarded with a library building!

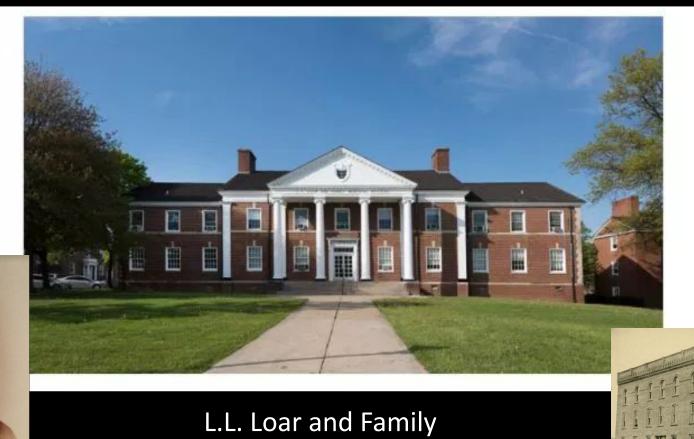
This was a major milestone in the life of the college.

- The **collection**s were growing, and being shaped to the curriculum of the college.
- The place was state-of-the-art.
- **Service** was very evident in the collecting, organizing, preserving, and sharing of materials that faculty needed for their teaching and students needed for their learning.
- A Library Science Major had been added in 1950, and there were multiple librarians and staff members actively teaching.

Annie Merner Pfeiffer never actually set foot on our campus, but she believed in the power of what was being done here. She also donated money to other Methodist colleges throughout Appalachia, and they also have Pfeiffer buildings.

She also stipulated that two other buildings of equal value be built at the same time. One of these was the L.L. Loar and Family Memorial Music Building, and the other was Fleming Hall.





L.L. Loar and Family Memorial Music Building Like Agnes Howard, Ethel Ray Loar was forced to withdraw from school due to rheumatoid arthritis. She spent the rest of her life confined to her parents' home and died in 1930.

Her father, Lawson Leolidas Loar, was a successful businessman in Clarksburg. He also was the Superintendent of Sunday School at the Methodist Church in Grafton at the time of the first Mother's Day Celebration. He died in 1938.

Due to the strong connection the family had with the Methodist Conference, and due to her belief in West Virginia Wesleyan College, Ethel's mother, Mrs. Lawson Loar, agreed in 1943 to provide funds (\$100,000) for the Hall of Music as a memorial to the Loar Family. This was a great act of faith and commitment at a time when the nation was facing World War once again. The building was not finished until 1953.

What an upgrade from the old Music Conservatory/Annex building! What an act of faith.
What a generous gift.

#### Three Giants in the Quad

Carl Doney	Wallace B. Fleming	Roy McCuskey
President 1907-1915	President 1915-1922	President 1931-1941
World War I (1914-1918)	World War I – and aftermath	Great Depression
	Came back as Vice President and Fundraiser 1938-1945 at the request of Roy McCuskey	







Wallace B. Flemin 1915-1922



1931-1941

The dormitories in what we know as The Quad are named after former presidents of the college. These three men served at times of incredible difficulty in the country, and in the world.



#### Wallace B. Fleming



#### PRES. WALLACE B. FLEMING, A.M., Ph.D.



HE friends of Wesleyan are unanimously agreed that in Dr. Fleming we have found the right man to make Wesleyan an ideal college. He is loved by the entire student body, and in fact by all with whom he comes in contact. During his first year he labored successfully under unfavorable conditions; but with this he was not satisfied and set to work during the

past few months to secure for Wesleyan a larger endowment. And we who know him have no doubts but that he will be successful in raising the half million dollar fund.

Notwithstanding the fact that Dr. Fleming is very busy with the campaign, he is never too busy to give attention to the student body which has grown very materially under his administration and we have faith to believe that it will be more than doubled within the next few years.

Murmurmontis 1918

The 1918 Murmurmontis included this description of President Fleming's first year

# Wallace B. Fleming returns 1938-1945

DOCTOR FLEMING CHECKS UP ON HIS MILLION DOLLAR CAMPAIGN



#### WALLACE B. FLEMING, Ph. D.

Vice-President and Director of the Semi-Centennial Campaign for One Million Dollars.

A. B. Muskingum College; B. D., Drew Theological Seminary; M. A., Muskingum College; D. D., Muskingum College; Ph. D., Columbia University; LL.D., West Virginia Wesleyan College; LL. D., Baker University.

Doctor Fleming came to the presidency of West Virginia Wesleyan College in August, 1915. Before this he had served as a member of the faculty of Drew Theological Seminary at Madison, New Jersey. During Doctor Fleming's leadership here, two financial campaigns, each for a half million dollars, were successfully conducted.

In the summer of 1922 he became the president of Baker University at Baldwin, Kansas, where he served for fifteen years. In 1937 the Board of Trustees of West Virginia Wesleyan invited him to return as Vice President of the College and Director of the Semi-Centennial Campaign for One Million Dollars.

The campaign is now under way with bright prospects of full success. Its completion will mark the beginning of a new era in the life of Wesleyan College.

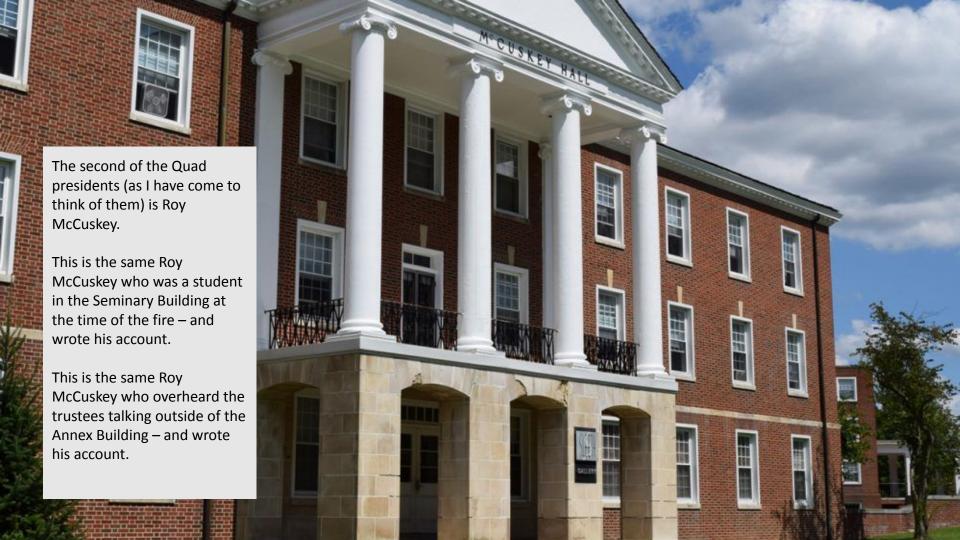
As if that were not enough, he came back as a Vice President (1938-1945) after having served for fifteen years as president of Baker University from 1922-1937. At the request of President McCuskey and the Board of Trustees, he agreed to return to head up yet another financial campaign.

This was a man who truly loved and believed in the college and worked tirelessly to help strengthen it.

The 1939 Murmurmontis included this page. "Dr. Fleming came to the presidency of West Virginia Wesleyan College in August, 1915. Before this he had served as a member of the faculty of Drew Theological Seminary at Madison, New Jersey. During Doctor Fleming's leadership here, two financial campaigns, each for a half million dollars, were successfully conducted.

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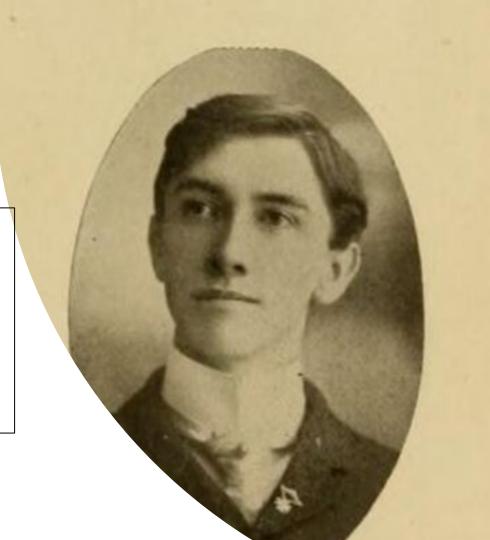


## Roy McCuskey: President 1931-1941

- Born: June 19, 1883 (Cameron, Marshall, West Virginia)
- Died: November 27, 1973 (Buckhannon, Upshur, West Virginia)

#### **Education:**

- West Virginia Conference Seminary (1905)
- A.B. West Virginia Wesleyan (1908)
- S.T.B. Boston University (1911)
- D.D. West Virginia Wesleyan College (1921)



## Roy McCuskey

#### Served:

Assistant Librarian (1908)

• Faculty Committee: Advisory 1940-1942

• Faculty Committee: Tournament 1935-1939

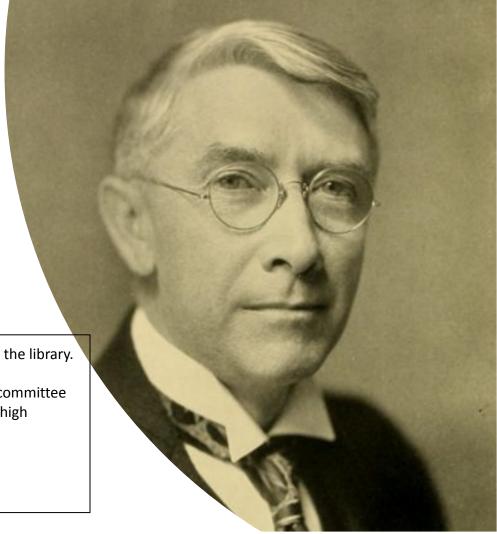
• President of the College 1931-1941

• Trustee of the College 1921-1931

During his time as a student, Roy McCuskey had been an assistant in the library.

He served on many campus committees as president, including the committee that planned and organized the basketball tournament for the state high schools.

His leadership was evident as student, trustee, and president.

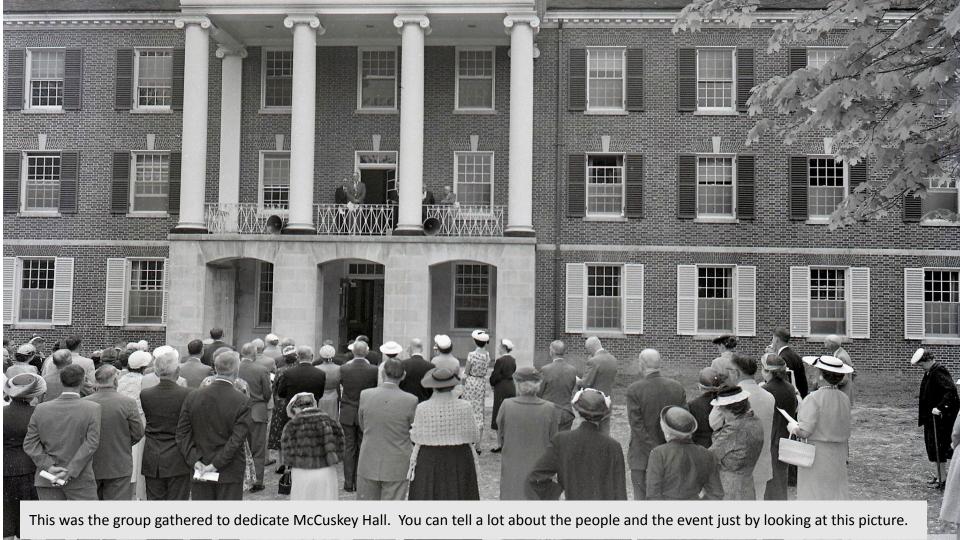


## Roy McCuskey: President 1931-1941



- Roy McCuskey graduated from the Classical Course at the West Virginia Conference Seminary in 1905.
- He also graduated in 1908 from West Virginia Wesleyan College with a Bachelor of Arts degree.
- After serving in churches for many years, and as a
   Trustee of the College from 1921-1931, he returned to
   the college as president in 1931 just at the very
   beginning of the Great Depression.
- These were difficult years, but he managed to keep the college afloat and to keep morale as strong as possible during such circumstances.







#### Carl Gregg Doney



CARL GREGG DONEY, A. M., LL. B., PH. D.

President of the College.

Born: July 24, 1867 (Columbus, Franklin, Ohio) Died: November 1955 (Columbus, Franklin, Ohio)

#### **Education:**

- B.Sci. Ohio State University 1891
- •LL.B. Ohio State University 1893
- •M.A. Ohio Wesleyan University 1899
- •Ph.D. Ohio State University 1902
- •Harvard University post graduate work

His writings tell us much about him and his interactions with the Wesleyan community. Click in the description at the left to read the following.

Doney, Carl Gregg. <u>Selections from his 1942 book</u>, <u>Cheerful Yesterdays and Confident Tomorrows</u>, selected and edited by Paula McGrew, 2017.

Doney, Carl Gregg. To the Student (1910 Murmurmontis)



REV. CARL GREGG DONEY, A. M., Ph. D.
Ohio State University, Ohio Wesleyan University, Harvard
University, President.

Served:
President of the College 1907 -1915
[On Leave of Absence 1914-1915]

President Doney was granted a leave of absence by the Board of Trustees during which he took his family to travel in Europe. While they were in Frankfurt, Germany, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was assassinated. As war was declared, the family left Europe for home.

Shortly after his return, he resigned to accept the presidency of Willamette University.

## First We Build Our Buildings, and Then They Build Us Bishop Fred Pierce Corson (quoting Winston Churchill)



For decades this was considered to be the new section of campus. In the next set of slides we will see major expansion into the other side of campus from 1963-1972.

## **Further Reading**

Haught, T.W. (1940) *West Virginia Wesleyan College: the first fifty years*. [electronic]. Retrieved from Internet Archive. Buckhannon, WV: West Virginia Wesleyan College. Available in the Annie Merner Pfeiffer Library.

Miller, B.T. (2014) *Our Home Among the Hills: West Virginia Wesleyan College's First 125 Years*. Virginia Beach, VA: The Donning Company Publishers.

Plummer, K.M. (1965) *A history of West Virginia Wesleyan College 1890-1965*. [electronic] Retrieved from Internet Archive. Buckhannon, WV: West Virginia Wesleyan College.

#### About the Author

B.S. West Virginia Wesleyan College (1978) M.A.L.S. Rosary College (1980) M.A. West Virginia University (2005)

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